REMARKS

The Official Action dated 08 September 2004 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules.

Claims 1-3, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 3,123,387 to Jackson et al.

Claims 4-5, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson, as applied above, and in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,816,017 to Hunt et al.

However, the Examiner has kindly indicated that claims 6-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claim 6 which is indicated to be allowable has been deleted, and has been included into claim 1. Claims 3-5 to which claim 6 is dependent thereon has also been deleted and has also been included into claim 1.

Claim 2 is dependent on the amended claim 1.

Claims 7, 8, 12, 16 have been amended to be dependent on the amended claim 1.

Claim 9 is dependent on claim 8. Claim 10 is dependent on claim 9.

Claim 11 which is indicated to be allowable has been written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 13 and 15 are dependent on claim 12. Claim 14 is dependent on claim 13.

Claims 17 and 18 are is dependent on claim 16.

Accordingly, claims 1-2, and 7-18 would appear to be allowable, and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is accordingly most respectfully solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner BOSWELL are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

By: Winson (in 10/11/2004

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